GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1610
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2005
OFFICIAL STATUS TO HINDI IN UNO
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has succeeded in its efforts to secure for Hindi language the status of authorised language at the United Nations Organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to make Hindi as a world language within the country and abroad;

(d) whether the Government has taken a decision to set up a World Hindi Centre in Mauritius; and

(e) If so, the duties to be assigned to this center for the spread and propagation of Hindi all over the world?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government of India have continued their endeavour to popularise Hindi, both in India and abroad. Special efforts are being made for teaching Hindi in foreign countries. A number of Hindi teaching centers are being run by our Missions. In addition, Missions also recommend a number of foreign nationals to enroll in Hindi courses organized by the Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra, and scholarships are provided for such students enrolled in this Institute. Teaching material, including software, are provided to Missions. A multimedia language lab is being established in Trinidad and Tobago. Books and magazines in Hindi are supplied to our Missions on a regular basis while some Missions publish their own Hindi magazines. The Ministry and ICCR, through Indian Missions, provide financial assistance for propagation of Hindi by organising regional Hindi Conferences. It has already been decided to celebrate 10th January as the World Hindi Day by our Missions abroad.

(d) & (e) The Government of India have decided to set up a World Hindi Secretariat in Mauritius. The Government of Mauritius has passed the necessary World Hindi Secretariat Act in their National Assembly, and a bilateral agreement between Mauritius and India has been signed in November 2003. The Governing Body and Executive Board have already been constituted and efforts are on to select the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General. Soon after the Government of Mauritius nominates the Secretary General, a meeting of the Governing Council would be held. The objectives of the World Hindi Secretariat would, inter alia, be:

i) To promote Hindi as an international language and further the cause of Hindi towards its recognition at the United Nations as an Official Language.

ii) To organize International Conferences, Seminars, Group discussions through the medium of Hindi Language, as well as organising cultural programmes, Kavi Sammelan and similar other activities.

iii) To confer international Awards upon outstanding Scholars for their contribution in the promotion of Hindi all over the world.

iv) Establishing Hindi Chairs in Universities all over the world where presently they do not exist.

v) To set up documentation center for research in multi media and information technology and to serve as data bank relating to Hindi authors, poets, scholars, institutions, universities and NGOs involved in the promotion of Hindi.

vi) To establish an international Hindi library (print as well as audio and visual).

vii) To organize international Hindi book fairs and computer exhibitions at selected places globally.

viii) To do all such acts and things incidental to or conducive to the attainment of its objectives.

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